BJC HEALTH SYSTEM

Washington
WASHINGTON·UNIVERSITY·IN·ST·LOUIS
School of Medicine

Dedicated to improving the lives of people with Spinal Cord Injuries

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Project Summary

Emerging technology in the field of computer-based learning, which incorporates graphics, text, video, and sound offers new opportunities to enhance the learning experience. The Rehabilitation Learning Center (RLC), seeks to capitalize on this technology for the benefit of individuals undergoing rehabilitation. The RLC will create a computer-based rehabilitation environment designed to educate individuals with acute or chronic spinal cord injuries (SCI) and empower them with the knowledge necessary to make informed choices regarding life after spinal cord injury. This project is run almost entirely by volunteers. We are actively seeking individuals interested in volunteering and lending their expertise to the project.

The components of this project are:

A Multimedia Information System

The RLC is developing an interactive multimedia information system designed as a bedside "digital consultant." In the first iteration of the RLC, we will limit the scope of our efforts to three core topics that our clients have identified as important to the rehabilitation process: "Orientation to Rehabilitation," "Orientation to Spinal Cord Injury," and "Mobility Independence." Instructional programs in these areas are being developed as linked modules that can be managed by a rehabilitation professional while simultaneously allowing the client free access to information, simula tions, and educational games. Prototype information modules will be developed for three discrete levels of spinal cord injury: C6 tetraplegia, T4 paraplegia, and T12 paraplegia. The information system will be tested with a prospective cohort of rehabilitation clients with SCI treated at Harborview Medical Center. Feedback obtained during this phase of the project will guide refinements of current information modules and further module development.

Web Applications

The purpose of this web site is two-fold. First, the RLC seeks to provide a world wide resource for information on spinal cord injury and disease. By creating a visually rich web environment, we hope to disseminate information about our project as well as allow certain aspects of the system available to all disabled and non-disabled users with access to the Internet. We are using this web site as a testing platform for internetworking applications of our technologies. We will be developing, through this web site, text-based information, interactive slide and multimedia presentations. We are Netscape enhanced to fully leverage our technology to the best available tools.

Goals and Objectives of the Project